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**The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents
Acclaimed Honduran Archeologist for Lecture on April 16**

Ricardo Agurcia Fasquelle Speaks on Maya Culture

CLEVELAND (March 24, 2003) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) presents a special lecture, **“Of Gods, Kings and Peasants: Unscrambling Maya Ruins at Copán, Honduras”** by renowned Honduran archaeologist Ricardo Agurcia F. on Friday, April 16, at 7 p.m. in the Museum’s Gartner Auditorium. The lecture will be followed by a reception in the Museum’s Asian Lobby.

Tickets for the lecture and reception are available for \$15; \$10 for CMA members and \$5 for students by calling 1-888-CMA-0033 or buying online at www.ClevelandArt.org.

Executive Director of the Copán Association in Honduras, Agurcia will lecture on Maya culture, in particular its social organization and religion, utilizing evidence discovered at Copán, the monumental Maya site in western Honduras that flourished from the 5th through 9th-centuries. Agurcia’s talk will highlight Copán’s spectacular architecture as well as its remarkably rich sculptural and hieroglyphic corpus, which have been illuminated by more than 25 years of intensive archeological investigation.

In addition, Agurcia will discuss the impact that archaeological investigation has made on the modern community of Copán. The hour-long lecture will be accompanied by slides taken in the field.

Over the past two decades Agurcia has participated in and directed extensive field work at Copán, where he has served as Regional Coordinator of Archaeological Projects for the Honduran government as well as Co-Director of the Copán Acropolis Archaeological Project. The Copán Association, which Agurcia assisted in founding and now heads, is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to research and conservation of the cultural heritage of Honduras.

During the 1980s, Agurcia served as director of the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History, which oversees the country’s cultural patrimony. He has also taught at universities in Honduras and has extensive curatorial experience, including the National Museum of Honduras and the Copán Sculpture Museum.

The Cleveland Museum of Art, located at 11150 East Blvd. in University Circle, is one of America’s leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.ClevelandArt.org.